AGENDA

OU6 - Walnut Creek Priority Drainage Phase I RFI/RI Environmental Evaluation

February 28, 1994

ADMIN RECOPD

- I. Review of OU6 EE Problem Formulation
 - A. Objectives and scope
 - B. Current Status with Respect to Workplan and EPA Framework
 - C. Conceptual model
- II. Study Design and Data Available to Date
 - A. Ecological site and effects characterization
 - B. Exposure assessment
 - C. Initial data screen
- III Polychlorinated Biphenyls in Pond Sediments
 - A. Data on PCBs in A- and B-series ponds
 - B Comparisons to EPA Sediment Quality Criteria and remedial action levels at other sites
 - C. Scope of problem at OU6
 - D. Proposed further sampling

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION REVIEW WAIVER PER CLASSIFICATION OFFICE

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

• Objective.

"[characterize] ecological effect to the biotic environment from exposure to contaminants resulting from IHSSs in the Walnut Creek Drainage" (DOE 1991)

• Scope of the OU6 EE

Retrospective

- contaminant releases have already occurred, scope of the investigation is defined by the events led to the suspected contamination.
- little or no data on site conditions prior to contaminant release
- physical disruptions coincided with chemical releases; use of reference area ecological comparisons not appropriate

Pre-existing evidence of ecological stress -

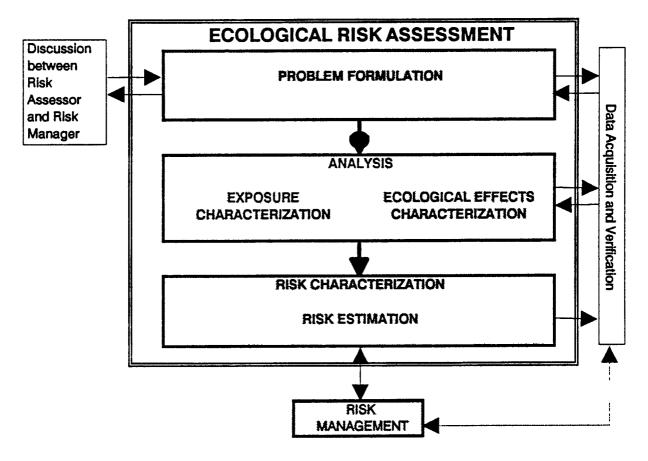
- Toxicity of surface water in B-series ponds due to un-ionized ammonia
- Lack of productive littoral margins in some ponds
- Relatively low richness of benthic community in some ponds

<u>Source Driven</u> – suspected sources of contaminants are defined, but ecological effects or exposures were mostly unknown

<u>Minimal Data for Identification of COCs</u> – contaminants (stressors) were poorly known prior to abiotic field investigations. Therefore, chemical-specific endpoints were difficult to apply.

- radionuclides
- un-ionized ammonia in B-series ponds

EPA's
"FRAMEWORK FOR ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT"



CONCEPTUAL MODEL

- Contaminant Sources
 - Soils in IHSSs 141, 143, 156.2, 165, 167.1, 216.1
 - Sediments and water in IHSSs 141.1-141.4 (A-Ponds), 142.5-142.9 (B-Ponds), 142.12 (pond at Indiana Street)
- Exposure Points soils, sediments, and surface water in IHSSs
 - sediments and surface water in Walnut Creek downgradient of the OU6 source areas
 - biota (forage or prey)
- Exposure Routes root uptake from soils/shallow groundwater
 - absorption from sediments or surface water
 - ingestion of abiotic media (sediments or surface water)
 - ingestion of forage or prey items that have become contaminated
- Food Web Interactions

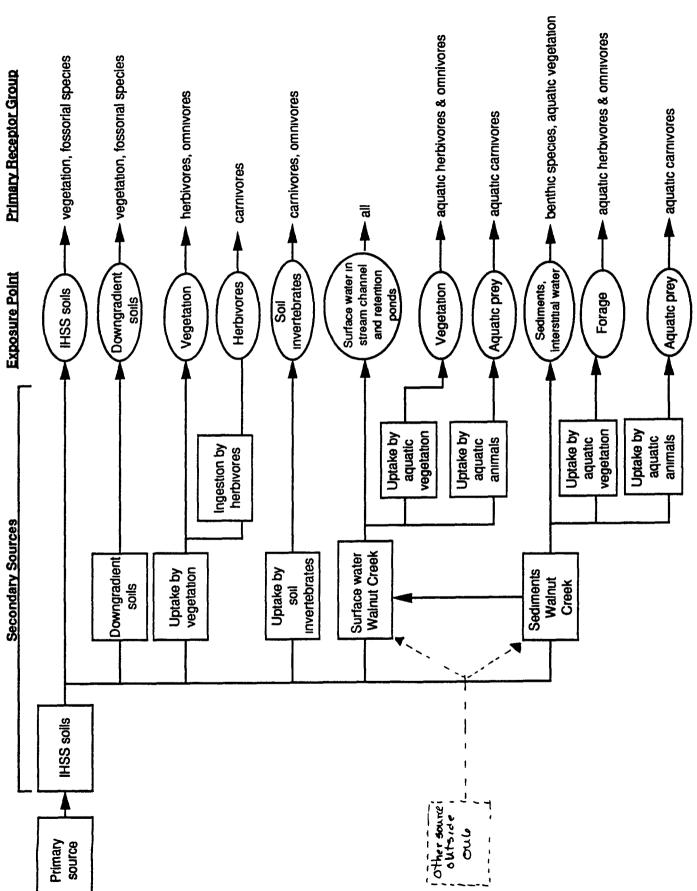


Figure 2. Conceptual Model for Primary Exposure Pathways, Operable Unit 6 Environmental Evaluation

STUDY DESIGN.

Sampling done to support:

- (1) Ecological Characterization
- (2) Exposure Assessment

Reference Areas Sampled for

(1) Vegetation and small mammal community

comparisons

(2) Vegetation, small mammal, and fish tissue

Note: aquatic reference areas not sampled for comparisons of community attributes

Ecological Characterization

Terrestrial Community Characterization

Biota Type

Endpoints

Vegetation

community composition

diversity (richness)

cover

releve (riparian)

Small Mammals

species presence/absence

diversity (richness)

sex

age, reproductive condition

weight

morphometrics

Aquatic Community Characterization

Benthic Macroinvertebrates

community composition

total individuals

diversity (richness, Shannon)

Fish

species presence/absence

Toxicity Tests - Water

screens and WET tests using Ceriodaphnia

and fathead minnows

Toxicity Tests - Sediment

whole sediment tests using Hyalella azteca and some tests with Chironomus sp; endpoints were survivorship and growth

Exposure Assessment

• Analyte concentrations in abiotic media

surface and subsurface soils sediments surface water groundwater

• Analyte concentrations in biological tissues

vegetation (whole, above-ground for selected species) small mammals (whole-body) fish (whole-body and gut)(where available) crayfish (where available)

• Toxicity Tests

sediment from ponds surface water from ponds (NPDES and study-specific) surface water runoff (storm or event-related)

OU6 Environmental Evaluation Vegetation Sampling

| | | Ecological/S | ite Charac | terization | ĺ |
|---------|----------------|--------------|------------|------------|----------|
| | RFEDS Location | , | | | |
| Site ID | Code | Fall '92 | Sum '93 | Fall '93 | Tissue* |
| VG01A6 | BI600092 | 10/27/92, | 6/22/93, | 10/6/93 | 11/1/92 |
| VG02A6 | B1600192 | 10/27/92, | | 10/6/93 | 11/1/92 |
| VG03A6 | B1600292 | 10/27/92, | | 10/6/93 | 10/29/92 |
| VG04A6 | B1600392 | 10/29/92, | | 10/4/93 | 10/29/92 |
| VG05A6 | B1600492 | 10/22/92, | 6/22/93, | 10/4/93 | 10/27/92 |
| VG06A6 | B1600592 | 10/26/92, | 6/21/93, | 10/6/93 | 10/27/92 |
| VG07A6 | B1600692 | 10/23/92, | 6/21/93, | 10/6/93 | 11/2/92 |
| VG08A6 | BI600792 | 10/23/92, | 6/21/93, | 10/6/93 | 11/2/92 |
| VG09A6 | B1600892 | 10/22/92, | 6/21/93, | 10/4/93 | 11/3/92 |
| VG10A6 | B1600992 | 10/27/92, | 6/22/93, | 10/4/93 | |
| VG11A6 | BI601092 | 10/27/92, | | 10/5/93 | 10/27/92 |
| VG12A6 | Bl601192 | 10/27/92, | | 10/5/93 | |
| VG13A6 | Bl601292 | 10/27/92, | 6/21/93, | 10/5/93 | 11/6/92 |
| VG14A6 | BI601392 | 10/27/92, | 6/21/93, | 10/5/93 | |
| VG15A6 | BI601492 | 10/27/92, | 6/21/93, | 10/5/93 | 10/27/92 |
| VG16A6 | BI601592 | 10/27/92, | 6/21/93, | 10/4/93 | |
| VG17A6 | BI601692 | 10/27/92, | 6/21/93, | 10/4/93 | |
| VG18A6 | BI601792 | 10/22/92, | 6/21/93, | 10/4/93 | 10/27/92 |
| VG19A6 | BI601892 | 10/29/92, | | 10/6/93 | 11/2/92 |
| VG20A6 | Bl601992 | 10/28/92, | | 10/5/93 | 11/7/92 |
| VG21A6 | BI602092 | 10/28/92, | | 10/5/93 | |
| VG22A6 | Bi602192 | 10/28/92, | | 10/4/93 | 11/6/92 |
| VG23A6 | B1602292 | 10/28/92, | | 10/5/93 | 11/7/92 |
| VG24A6 | B1602392 | 10/28/92, | | 10/5/93 | 10/27/92 |
| VG25A6 | B1602492 | 10/29/92, | | 10/6/93 | |
| VG26A6 | BI602592 | 10/29/92, | | 10/6/93 | |
| VG27A6 | B1602692 | 10/29/92, | | 10/6/93 | 11/3/92 |
| VG28A6 | BI602792 | 10/29/92, | | 10/6/93 | 10/29/92 |
| VG29A6 | BI602892 | 10/29/92, | 6/22/93, | 10/4/93 | 10/29/92 |
| VG30A6 | B1602992 | | | 11/2/93 | |
| VG31A6 | | | | 10/7/93 | |
| VG32A6 | | | | 10/7/93 | |
| VG33A6 | | | | 10/7/93 |] |
| VG34A6 | | | | 10/7/93 | |
| VG35A6 | | 1 | | 10/7/93 | 1 |
| VG36A6 | | | | 10/7/93 | |
| VG37A6 | | | | 10/7/93 | |
| VG38A6 | | | | 10/7/93 | |

^{*-} tissue samples analyzed for metals and radionuclides

OU6 Environmental Evaluation Small Mammal Sampling

| Site ID | RFEDS Location Code | Ecological | Tissue* |
|---------|------------------------|------------|----------|
| MG04A6 | BI600392 | | 10/30/92 |
| MG05A6 | BI600492 | 10/21/92 | |
| MG06A6 | BI600592 | | 10/28/92 |
| MG07A6 | BI600692 | 10/21/92 | 10/24/92 |
| MG08A6 | BI600792 | 10/21/92 | 11/17/92 |
| MG09A6 | BI600892 | 10/21/92 | |
| MG11A6 | BI601092 | | 10/27/92 |
| MG13A6 | Bl601292 | | 10/27/92 |
| MG15A6 | BI601492 | 10/21/92 | 11/12/92 |
| MG16A6 | BI601592 | 10/21/92 | |
| MG18A6 | Bl601792 | 10/21/92 | 10/27/92 |
| MG29A6 | BI602892 | 11/3/92 | 10/29/92 |

^{• -} tissue samples analyzed for metals and radionuclides

Soil Sampling Conducted at Biota Sampling Sites*

| | RFEDS | |
|----------|---------------|--------|
| Site I D | Location Code | Date |
| VG05A6 | BI600492 | 2/1/92 |
| VG06A6 | B1600592 | 2/1/92 |
| VG07A6 | B1600692 | 2/1/92 |
| VG08A6 | BI600792 | 2/1/92 |
| VG09A6 | B1600892 | 2/1/92 |
| VG10A6 | B1600992 | 2/2/92 |
| VG15A6 | BI601492 | 2/2/92 |
| VG18A6 | BI601792 | 2/1/92 |
| | | 2/1/92 |
| | ' | 2/1/92 |
| VG27A6 | B1602692 | 2/1/92 |
| VG28A6 | BI602792 | 2/1/92 |
| VG29A6 | B1602892 | 2/1/92 |
| VG30A6 | BI602992 | 2/1/92 |

^{* -} soil samples analyzed for metals and radionuclides

OU6 Environmental Evaluation Aquatic Biota Sampling

| ſ | | Tissu | e Sampling | (1)(2) | | Toxicity ' | Testing |
|---------|---------------|-------------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| | RFEDS | | | (-/(-/ | Benthos | | |
| SITE ID | Location Code | Fathead | Bass | Crayfish | (taxon i D) | Sediment | Water |
| SED09 | | Apr-93 | | Apr-93 | | | The second contract of the second |
| SWA1 | BI605592 | Nov-92 | | Nov-92 | Apr-93 | Oct-92 | May-93 |
| | | Apr-93 | | Apr-93 | ' | | • |
| SWA2 | Bl605692 | Nov-92 | Apr-93 | Nov-92 | Apr-93 | Nov-92 | May-93 |
| | | Apr-93 | • | Apr-93 | | | - |
| | | Oct-93 | | Oct-93 | | | |
| SWA3 | B1605792 | Nov-92 | Nov-92 | Nov-92 | May-93 | Oct-92 | May-93 |
| | | May-93 | May-93 | May-93 | | | |
| SWA4 | BI605892 | Nov-92 | Nov-92 | Nov-92 | May-93 | Oct-92 | |
| | | Apr-93 | May-93 | Apr-93 | | | |
| SWA5 | BI605992 | Nov-92 | Nov-92 | Nov-92 | May-93 | Nov-92 | |
| | | Apr-93 | May-93 | Apr-93 | | | |
| SW59 | | May-93 | | May-93 | | | |
| SWB1 | BI606092 | Nov-92 | | Nov-92 | Oct-91 | Nov-92 | Oct-91 |
| | | Apr-93 | | Apr-93 | Ī | | |
| | | Oct-93 | | Oct-93 | | | |
| SWB2 | Bl606192 | Nov-92 | | Nov-92 | Oct-91 | Nov-92 | Oct-91 |
| | | Apr-93 | | Apr-93 | | | |
| | | Oct-93 | | Oct-93 | | | |
| \$WB3 | BI606292 | Nov-92 | | Nov-92 | Oct-91 | Oct-92 | Oct-91 |
| | | Apr-93 | | Apr-93 | | | May-93 |
| SWB4 | B1606392 | Nov-92 | | Nov-92 | Oct-91 | Oct-92 | Oct-91 |
| | | Apr-93 | | Apr-93 | | | May-93 |
| | | Oct-93 | | Oct-93 | | | |
| SWB5 | BI606492 | Nov-92 | Sep-91 | Nov-92 | Sep-91 | Oct-92 | Oct-91 |
| SW25 | | | DRY | | | | |

^{(1) -} Italics = tissue samples were successfully collected, no Italics = no samples collected due to lack of trapping success

^{(2) -} tissue samples analyzed for metals and radionuclides

Physical, Biological, and Chemical Characteristics of the A- and B-Series Detention Ponds Table 1

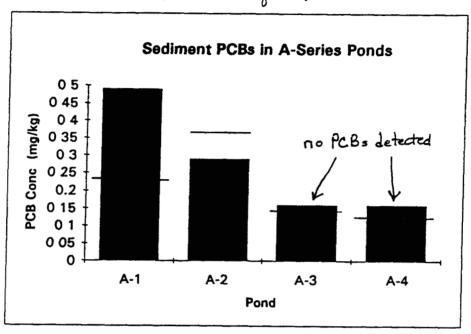
| | A-1 | A-2 | A-3 | A-4 | Pond B-1 | B-2 | B-3 | B-4 | B-5 |
|--|-----------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Physical Characteristics | | | | | | | | | |
| Areal Extent (ha) | 0 37 | 0 57 | 114 | 109 | 0 11 | 031 | 0 17 | 0 11 | 0 87 |
| Water Source | local | local runnoff | N Walnut Cr | A-3, runnoff | local | local runnoff | WW treatment plant | B-3, runnoff | B-4, runnoff |
| Substrate | silt/sand | silt/sand | silt/sand | silt/sand | silt/sand | silt/sand | silt/sand | silt/sand silt/sand | slit/sand |
| Water Level Managed? | 2 | 2 | 8 | yes | 9 | 2 | Yes | yes | yes |
| Blota | | | | | | | | | |
| Fish Present? Productive Littoral Zone? | no yes | ye s | 2 2 | yes* | no yes | 5 8 | e § | yes yes | yes |
| PCB Concentrations | | | | | | | | | |
| Sediment PCBs mg/kg (std dev) | 0 5(0 1) | 0 3(0 25) | 2 | 2 | 16(23) | 2 3(2 8) | 1 5(1 8) | 0 3(0 15) | Ę |
| Total Organic Carbon mg/kg | 11550 | 18414 | 9656 | 5469 | 24225 | 27720 | 9953 | 11132 | 6748 |
| Sediment Quality Criterion - mg/kg | 0 23 | 0 36 | 0 13 | 0 11 | 0 47 | 0 58 | 0 19 | 0 22 | 0 13 |
| Toxicity Test Results (percent survival) | | | | | | | | | |
| Water Prophales | 100 | 9 | 90 | 6 | 6 | 8 | \$ | 30** | 50** |
| Cerlodaphnia | 8 | 8 | 001 | 90 | 92 | 9 | 8 | 75** | 65** |
| Sediment Hyalella | 8 | 88 | 76 | 88 | 91 | 64** | 25 | 91 | 60 |

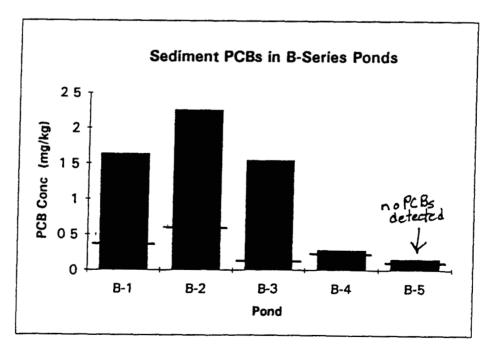
* Suspected presence of fathead minnows (Pimphales promelas)
** Significantly more toxic than controls
nd = not detected

Figure 2 OU6 Phase I RFI/RI Total PCB Concentrations in Sediments of A- and B-Series Ponds

Top 2' of sediment

= EPA sediment quality criterion calculated using TOC





Note Data presented here are based on preliminary calculations.

Table 3 Summary of Benthic Macromvertebrate Communities in A. and B.Series Ponds

| Parameter | A-1 | A-2 | A-3 | A 4 | Pond B-1 | B-2 | 8-3 | 8-4 | 8-5 |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|-----|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Taxa Richness | 38 | 40 | 13 | 6 | 19 | 80 | 24 | 18 | 3 |
| Percent Contribution of Dominant Family | 19 | 28 | 19 | 11 | 99 | 86 | 6 | 99 | 77 |
| Dominent Family Shannon's Diversity EPT/Chironomidae | Chironomidae (Insecta) 2 31 0 22 | Talitridae (Amphipoda) 2 43 0 5 | Tubificidae (Annelida) 171 0 | Chironomidae (Insecta) O 87 O | Talitridae (Amphipoda) 1 65 38 | | Tubificidae? Tubificidae? Tubificidae? (Annelida) (Annelida) (Annelida) 0 84 1 52 1 36 | Tubificidae?* Tubificidae?* Chironomidae (Annelida) (Annelida) (Insecta) 0.84 1.62 1.38 0.63 11 0.015 0.008 | Chironomidae (Insecta) 0 63 |

Notes

* For the B-series ponds, Oligochaetes were not identified However, based on the A-series pond date, the only family represented significantly was Tubificidae

1 Taxa Richness represents the total number of distinct taxa identified for a given site

Organisms were identified to the lowest level of taxonomic resolution possible. In general this was the genus level. However, some organisms could only be identified to the family level In a few instances, species-level identification was possible

Shannon's diversity calculated with BOOTSTRAP, benthic community analysis software developed for the National Park System

4 EPT/Chironomidae represents total number of individuals of the orders Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera divided by the total number of individuals of the generally tolerant family Chironomidae

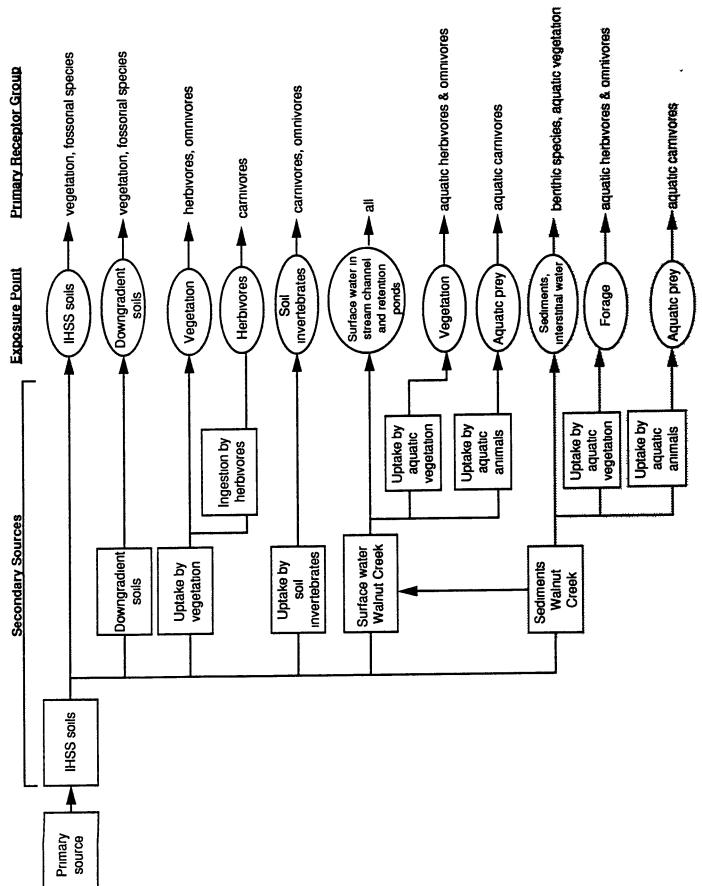


Figure 2. Conceptual Model for Primary Exposure Pathways, Operable Unit 6 Environmental Evaluation

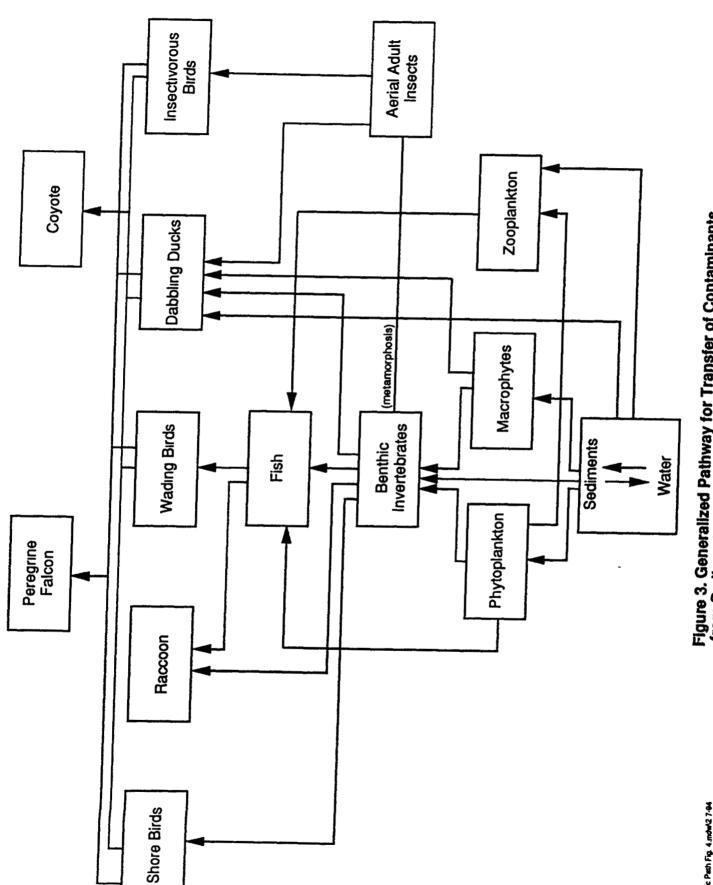


Figure 3. Generalized Pathway for Transfer of Contaminants from Sediments to Biota in Local Food Web at Rocky Flats

MEST rispic Path Fig. 4.mole/2 7-94

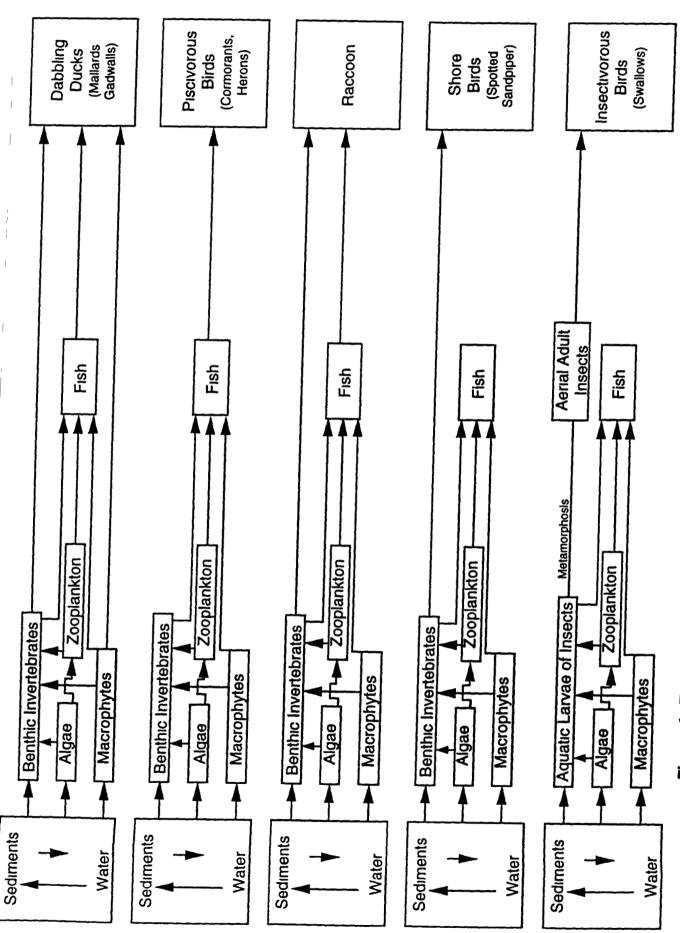


Figure 4. Trophic Exposure Pathways Considered in Exposure Characterization

MES\Trophic Exposure Fig 4.mdw/2 10-94

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED TO EVALUATE RISK OF PCBs IN POND SEDIMENTS

• Concentration of PCBs in sediments to which aquatic organisms, primarily benthos, are exposed

Activity sample sediments in the upper 6 inches in ponds where PCBs were detected

• Relative bioavailability of PCBs in sediments to aquatic organisms

Activity: sample fish and aquatic invertebrate tissue to determine extent

to which PCBs are being transferred "upward" thus becoming

available to upper levels of food web

• Relative bioavailability of PCBs to mallard ducks nesting in the area

Activity: sample mallard duck eggs for PCB content

TASKS TO BE COMPLETED

Task 400 – Toxicity Assessment

- Final screening for Contaminants of Concern (COCs)
 - final identification of site contaminants
 - concentration-toxicity screen of site contaminants
 - final identification of COCs by medium
- Development of Toxicity Reference Values for evaluating potential hazard of exposures to COCs

Task 500 - Exposure Assessment

- Identify:
 - exposure routes and points
 - receptor species to be evaluated
 - methods for exposure estimation
- Estimate Exposures

Task 600 - Preliminary Contamination Characterization (step in Risk Characterization)

- Characterize sources and exposure points that represent potentially toxic exposures
- Characterize relevance of exposures to ecologically significant impacts
 - population and community level
 - risks to individuals of protected species

Task 700 – Uncertainty Analysis

• Determine sources of uncertainty and their potential effects on conclusions

Task 1000 - Environmental Evaluation Report

- Perform final risk characterization
- Synthesize all information and prepare report to present data and conclusions

Meeting Summary - February 28, 1994

RE OU6 - Walnut Creek Priority Drainage Phase I RFI/RI Environmental Evaluation

List of attendees

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Norma Castaneda DOE

Bill Fraser EPA

Bonnie Lavelle EPA

Neil Holsteen EG&G

Ed Mast EG&G

Frank Vertucci EG&G

Mark Lewis S M Stoller Corporation Katharine Misken S M Stoller Corporation

This meeting was held to update the regulatory agencies on the status of environmental investigations at Operable Unit No 6 (OU6) Mark Lewis gave the presentation Handouts accompanying the presentation are attached

I. REVIEW OF OU6 EE PROBLEM FORMULATION

A Objectives and Scope

The objective of this investigation was to "[characterize] ecological effect to the biotic environment from exposure to contaminants resulting from IHSSs in the Walnut Creek Drainage" (quote from OU6 RFI/RI Work Plan) Historical releases, data from previous investigations, and information on past physical alterations of the site were reviewed prior to initial investigation. The EE was source-driven with some evidence of ecological stress and minimal data for identification of contaminants of concern (COCs) (although unionized ammonia and radionuclides were known from previous sampling)

Representatives from EPA had no formal opinion on whether the A- and B-Series ponds are aquatic habitat to be protected, or anthropogenic disruptions of the natural condition of the drainage that should be remediated EG&G and Stoller noted that this distinction is important to selecting endpoints and defining resources to be protected in the OU6 ecological risk assessment

Variable site use and substantial manipulation of pond water levels make comparisons of the aquatic communities in the A- and B-Series ponds to reference areas inappropriate Community structure analysis conducted thus far will be used to elucidate ecological patterns and not necessarily contaminant effects. Therefore, the aquatic portion of the risk assessment will emphasize exposure assessment in evaluation of potential impacts.

Delays in the OU6 schedule allowed time for screening of preliminary (unvalidated) data from abiotic media investigations for compounds that may bioaccumulate. The initial data collection and contaminant screen were performed to identify potential contaminants that might biomagnify. Potential transfer of contaminants from aquatic to terrestrial communities is of significant interest for subsequent investigations.

B. Current Status with Respect to Work Plan and EPA Framework

Currently Tasks 8 and 9 of the 10-task scheme described in the OU6 RFI/RI Work Plan are being implemented. According to EPA's "Framework for Ecological Risk Assessment," the problem formulation, data analysis, and data acquisition phases may be iterative, with additional data needs identified based on results of initial activities. The OU6 EE is currently refining the investigation focus based on preliminary data and identification of additional data needs. Additional data will be acquired through sampling

Final COCs have not been selected because a final "fixed" data set for abiotic media is not yet available. Site contaminants identified during the evaluation of the nature and extent of contamination will be used to select COCs.

C. Conceptual Model

M Lewis (Stoller) identified the IHSSs included in OU6 as primary source areas. It was noted that sediments of the detention ponds may be viewed as secondary sources because they receive contaminants from upgradient sources. It is not clear whether contaminant transport is ongoing. Information relating to the source, sinks, and ongoing releases is required to make this determination. F. Vertucci (EG&G) noted that OU6 sampling could be used as part of the sitewide source analysis. For the purposes of the EE, the ponds will be considered potential sources and exposure points for aquatic and terrestrial biota. Stoller will also assume that the contaminant flux among source areas is at steady state.

EPA suggested considering the ponds a source of contaminants to Great Western reservoir

Exposure points will include soil, sediment, surface water, and biota in the IHSSs and some downgradient areas. Exposure routes will include root uptake, absorption from sediment or surface water, and ingestion of abiotic media and contaminated forage or prey items. Food web interactions will be evaluated including bioaccumulation and biomagnification where important

B Lavelle (EPA) asked if particulate inhalation will be evaluated as an exposure route M Lewis (Stoller) replied that potential effects of the inhalation exposure route will be qualitatively evaluated because cancer is the primary toxic effect for this pathway and carcinogenic endpoints generally are not evaluated in ecological risk

M Lewis (Stoller) also noted that acute radiation poisoning or constituent metal toxicity is not likely because of the relatively low concentration of radionuclides in soil and sediment at OU6 but the potential for these effects will be addressed. Chronic internal radiation exposure will be quantitatively assessed using tissue radionuclide concentrations

II. STUDY DESIGN AND DATA AVAILABLE TO DATE

A Ecological Site and Effects Characterization

Aquatic sampling conducted to date includes abiotic media, benthic macroinvertebrates and fish community characterization, and water and sediment toxicity tests. F. Vertucci (EG&G) again noted that community diversity is not necessarily contaminant driven

A substantial amount of aquatic toxicity testing already has been performed under the NPDES permit. M Lewis (Stoller) noted that previous water toxicity tests in the B-Series ponds indicated toxicity due to un-ionized ammonia, assumed to be from the wastewater treatment plant.

M Lewis (Stoller) noted that other ponds at RFP may be acceptable background areas for sediment and tissue analysis because airborne transport of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) is not likely. A summary of ecological data collected to date was presented (see attachment)

B. Exposure Assessment

Exposure modeling will be done for each IHSS and for the entire site/drainage Tertiary sources will be included Measures of exposure point concentrations will be used when available Other routes and endpoints may be modeled

Exposure estimations will be conducted using COC concentrations in abiotic media and biological tissue. Results of toxicity tests will be used to evaluate actual risk of exposure to abiotic media and assess relative bioavailability of contaminants.

C. Initial Data Screen

Preliminary and unvalidated data from investigations of abiotic media were screened for chemicals that have the potential to biomagnify. Lead and mercury were detected in slightly elevated concentrations in a few samples, but the site mean was not significantly different from background. PCBs were detected in sediments of some ponds. Other semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs) were either not detected or were rarely detected. Potential impacts and the need for further sampling for PCBs were evaluated.

III. POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS IN POND SEDIMENTS

PCBs were detected in sediments of ponds A-1, A-2, B-1, B-2, B-3, and B-4 Only the PCBs Aroclor 1254 and Aroclor 1260 were detected

Only data from the zero- to two-foot depth interval were presented. However, aquatic organisms are only exposed to approximately the top 6 inches of sediment

Sediment quality criteria (SQCs) were calculated using EPA methods. Concentrations of PCBs in sediments of Ponds A-1, B-1, B-2, B-3, and B-4 exceeded SQCs. EPA's guidance specifies that the SQCs should be used as a trigger to indicate a need for further sampling.

The origin and time of PCB release was discussed E Mast (EG&G) said that the source was unknown and could be outside OU6 M Lewis (Stoller) noted that the highest PCB concentrations were generally deeper than 2 feet in sediment, suggesting that clean sediments may have been deposited on contaminated ones M Lewis (Stoller) noted that

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the absence of PCBs with lower chlorine contents may indicate that release is relatively old F Vertucci (EG&G) suggested that stratification of sediments could be used to determine the timing and possible source of PCBs

M Lewis (Stoller) reviewed existing data on toxicity and ecological stress with respect to PCB contamination of sediments. There appears to be no relationship between PCB concentration and toxicity of either sediments or water from the A- and B-Series ponds. The EPA toxicity test species, *Hyalella azteca*, was the dominant species found in the ponds. M Lewis (Stoller) noted that the abundance of oligochaetes (Tubificidae) in ponds B-2, B-3, and B-4 is typical of waters impacted by municipal wastewater treatment plants. Pond B-2 receives water from the RFP wastewater treatment plant.

M Lewis (Stoller) stated that PCBs readily biomagnify. Therefore, further PCB analysis will focus on exposures to upper-level consumers in the aquatic-based food web However, PCB bioavailability decreases with age. Exposures to waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and raccoons will be evaluated. Exposure to peregnine falcons and coyotes will be assessed qualitatively.

A. Proposed Further Sampling

A brief summary of sampling to be performed was presented. Sampling and analysis will focus on assessing bioavailability of PCBs in sediments and potential exposure of the receptors noted above. Sediment sampling will focus on the upper 6 inches of sediment to determine potential biological exposure. Fish and invertebrate tissue will also be analyzed as exposure points to upper-level consumers. F. Vertucci (EG&G) asked if fish gut contents will be examined to determine diet composition. M. Lewis (Stoller) replied that this is not planned at this time due to sampling difficulty. M. Lewis (Stoller) also noted that biomarkers will not be used because it is difficult to reliably quantify their relationship to adverse effects. Mallard duck eggs may be sampled if available.

EPA agreed to the focus of sampling as presented They noted that protection of aquatic habitat is not resolved, but agreed that focusing the hazard assessment on receptors susceptible to biomagnification is appropriate B Fraser (EPA) said that no EPA review of the sampling plan was necessary B Lavelle (EPA) would like to be notified of sampling so that EPA may attend

F Vertucci (EG&G) suggested transplanting fathead minnows from PCB-free ponds at RFP to PCB-contaminated ponds and vice versa to attempt to determine whether fish in the B-Series ponds have become acclimated to PCBs in sediments B Lavelle (EPA) and B Fraser (EPA) agreed this may be interesting but did not require it

B. Deliverables

B Lavelle (EPA) and B Fraser (EPA) requested that data on ecological characterization be forwarded to them prior to submittal of the draft report. They agreed to return comments on these data prior to comments on the draft report. B Lavelle (EPA) and B Fraser (EPA) will provide E Mast (EG&G) with the aquatic endpoints (e.g., dominant family) its aquatic biologists would like to see summarized from OU6 data. E Mast (EG&G) will pass this on to S M Stoller for completion of the data summaries. E Mast (EG&G) asked if EPA wanted to sign meeting minutes. B Fraser (EPA) said no

B Lavelle (EPA) and B Fraser (EPA) also requested a summary of PCB remedial action levels at other sites to provide perspective on the PCB levels found in OU6 Site-specific standards will be qualified with the endpoint, effect, and/or species the standard is protecting

The current negotiated schedule indicates the Phase I RFI/RI draft due in June 1994, and the final document is due in September 1994. E. Mast (EG&G) noted that current sampling is hoped to be included in the draft, but could be available for the final only B. Fraser (EPA) indicated that inclusion of data for the final draft is acceptable.

